

November 18, 2024

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 1 Clr. Joe MacDonald
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Ronald Baillie
- 5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
- 6 Warden Robert Parker
- 7 Clr. Donald Parker
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles

IN ATTENDANCE

- Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
- Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
- Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
- Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
- Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
- Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative
- Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAO Cullen called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Clr. Darla MacKeil was nominated as Chair of the Financial Services Committee and accepted the nomination.

Clr. Andy Thompson was nominated as Vice-Chair of the Financial Services Committee and accepted the nomination.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Warden Parker said the lack of ferry service between Caribou and Wood Islands PE has been ongoing for quite some time, and it is time for this Council and others to voice their opinion before it is too late. All council members agreed to have this discussion added as an emergency resolution.

MOTION

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Parker to write a letter regarding the lack of ferry service asking the Government of Canada to insist that whoever operates the Nova Scotia to P.E.I. ferry service be required to have at least two ferries ready to sail from early May until December 20th. Also, a third ferry will be on standby, and there will be significant financial penalties to the ferry service provider if the ferry availability is not adhered to within ten days of breakdown. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Dewar requested that a discussion be added regarding the possibility of Hopewell Recreation Association receiving a \$10,000.00 grant.

CAO Cullen included information about land near West Pictou School land and drainage in the package. Following motions of reconsideration, this item has been added to the agenda for an In-Camera discussion.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for October 21, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on October 21, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter from Dr. Mark Sutherland to the provincial government regarding Tourism Levy.
- b. Thank you letter from Mountain Bike Pictou County for funding.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

COMMUNICATION REPORT

The Communication Report for the month of October 2024 was received as presented.

Ms. Musick said radio ads had been purchased for the land use planning, which will begin this week and run for two weeks.

Clr. Turner asked what dates the land use planning ads would run and if they would cover all the meetings. Mr. MacInnis said the ads would run within the next couple of days and would direct people to the website to encourage them to check out the dates online.

Warden Parker said that the Emergency Services dog problems are a big concern for the municipality, given the amount of recognition this issue received compared to everything else.

RECREATION REPORT

The Recreation Report for the month of October 2024 was received as presented.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for the month of October 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Palmer asked what water issues were discussed at the meeting with the Town of Westville. Warden Parker said that this is a longer-term issue. Westville was looking at getting more housing, and the Town of New Glasgow is nearing the end of the rope regarding water. The things discussed were possibilities for the future.

INTERNET REPORT

The Internet Report for the month of October 2024 was received for information purposes.

Clr. Turner asked if commercial enterprises had been approached and if the project had the capacity and capability to service larger enterprises. Ms. McNair said business services will soon be released, and some extra work needed to be done on the network before going into commercial. That is in the finishing stages now, and there are a few test companies to work through the soft launch. Ms. McNair will provide further information as soon as it is available. Clr. Turner asked if a launch date was in mind, and Ms. McNair said it would be in the new year.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of October 2024 was received for information purposes.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

The Deed Transfer Tax for the month of October 2024 was received as presented.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

ACCOUNTS PAID – OCTOBER 2024

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the Accounts Paid Report for the month of October 2024 be received as presented.

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

STREETLIGHT APPROVALS

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacDonald and seconded by Warden Parker to approve a streetlight installation at the entrance of the Kenzieville Community Centre parking lot in District 1.

Motion Carried

Mr. McDowell said that after reviewing the file and discussing it with Clr. MacDonald, the conditions for the streetlight approval at this location were favourable.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve streetlight installations in District 2, located two poles beyond the light across from 4616 Little Harbour Road and the second at four poles beyond the light across from 4616 Little Harbour Road.

Motion Carried

Mr. McDowell said the two streetlights requested were reviewed, and the conditions for their approval at these locations were favourable.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Palmer to approve a streetlight installation at 106 Munroe Avenue Extension in District 8.

Motion Carried

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Thompson to approve a streetlight installation at the intersection of Elgin Road and Duncan Chisholm Road, Elgin, in District 12. **Motion Carried**

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Warden Parker to approve a Municipal Service Grant for District 9 for the Priestville Walkerville Cemetery for \$2,000.00 for cemetery maintenance. **Motion Carried**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Palmer to approve a District 12 Municipal Service Grant for District 12 for the Hopewell Footbridge, Ceilidh and Candy Cane Committee for \$5,000.00. **Motion Carried**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Parker that Council authorize the collection of charitable donations to the Hopewell Recreation Association and issues charitable tax receipts through the Municipality of the County of Pictou. **Motion Carried**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Thompson to approve the District 3 Community Connectivity Event Fund Request for \$1000.00 for the Caribou Fire Department for community events. **Motion Carried**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Turner to approve the District 10 Community Connectivity Event Fund Request for \$1500.00 for the Christmas Event and the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena 50th Anniversary. **Motion Carried**

CITIZEN APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer to recommend to Council the approval of Bonny Morgan to the Planning Advisory Committee.

Motion Carried

PICTOU COUNTY COMMUNITY HALL INTERNET PROGRAM APPLICATION

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Baillie and seconded by Clr. Thompson to recommend to Council that the Community Support Services in River John be approved for the program which offers free MOPC internet to community halls.

Motion Carried

CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR STAFF

MOTION

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. MacDonald to increase the MOPC Christmas staff bonuses to \$200.00.

Motion Carried

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY UPDATE

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Baillie to accept the updated Code of Conduct Policy in conjunction with the new provincial legislation.

Motion Carried

CAO Cullen said that the policy complies with provincial legislation and must be approved by December 19, 2024.

DEFERRED BUSINESS

PICTOU LIBRARY FUNDING

CAO Cullen said there was no new information on the library funding at this time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community announcements were given.

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Turner to go to In-Camera session.

Motion Carried

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Wadden to return to regular session.

Motion Carried

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK